

throughout the State of California. She has been a leader in the Democratic Party, and that came to her from her magnificent mother and father, whom I think tonight and tomorrow and all days are watching NANCY and guiding her from heaven.

Her father served in this House of Representatives. He served as a member of the Committee on Appropriations, as his daughter does today. And her mother was a champion for housing, for the underemployed, for the unemployed, for those that did not have a voice in our society. Her father went on to become Mayor of Baltimore. Her brother, Tommy, has served as Mayor of Baltimore.

So as we Californians like to say, NANCY PELOSI was born and bred for public service and understanding what the best of it represents. Her devotion, her family's devotion to a party to give birth to ideas and to bring people forward for the best of our Nation is the tradition not only of the D'Alesandro family, but the Pelosi family as well.

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Mr. Speaker, tonight we rise to pay tribute to her. Not only on the occasion of becoming elected whip, but how proud we are as Californians that we have helped to bring forward this woman for this post. She has always, always been respected by everyone here on both sides of the aisle. The gentlewoman always has a friend in her voice. The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) does not make enemies. Why? Because she knows what is at stake, and what is at stake is the business, the blessed and very precious business of our Nation and a better world.

We are so proud that this woman has created another first. We saw her do it in California, and we see her do it here all over again. Whether Members supported her in the race for whip, all of that has really gone away. Tomorrow we present our gift as a caucus to the Nation, and how proud we are that she is yet another first. I think that we have helped to create and present as a party not only a gift to the House of Representatives, to the Congress, but to our Nation, because that is why we are here. I think Americans will come to know her and respect her as we do for what she believes in, for the faith that shapes all that she believes in, because she is a deeply spiritual and faith-filled woman.

Mr. Speaker, the commute across the country every week is not the easiest, but I could not wait to get up this morning to make that flight across the country and join my colleagues and so many other Californians who have flown across the country, who have come here to witness the swearing in and the celebration of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) becoming the whip of the Democrats and a gift to the Nation.

TRIBUTE TO NEW MINORITY WHIP, THE HONORABLE NANCY PELOSI

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to also pay tribute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI). Forty years ago in this city a beautiful young woman graduated from Trinity College. Today she becomes the highest ranking woman in the United States House of Representatives. The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), now a San Francisco Congresswoman, is the pride of our great State. Born in Baltimore to a family of public servants, her father has been mentioned, Thomas D'Alesandro, served as mayor of Baltimore for 12 years after representing the city in this House of Representatives for five terms where he, like the gentlewoman, served on the Committee on Appropriations. Her brother, Thomas D'Alesandro, III, served as mayor of Baltimore.

She met her husband Paul here in Washington, D.C., in Georgetown where he was a student at Georgetown University. They moved to California, and I think at that time Paul Pelosi changed the definition of the State slogan which is printed on our State library in Sacramento. That slogan reads, "Bring us men to match our mountains." Paul Pelosi brought us women to match our mountains.

The gentlewoman gave birth to five children, Nancy Corinne, Christine, Jacqueline, Paul, and Alexandra. While raising her five children, she got involved in San Francisco Democratic politics, became northern chair of the State party, and chair of the 1984 Democratic National Convention Host Committee when that convention was held in San Francisco.

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) became known as a national committeewoman from California and served in that position for 20 years. She is a champion of the people's issues. She is a respected mother, a San Francisco socialite, a Congresswoman, and now Democratic whip of the House of Representatives.

As a native of California, fifth generation, this is one of the proudest moments I have had in public life, to see one of our own public servants rise to this position, and I now serve along with the gentlewoman as chair of the Democratic delegation from California. That is no small issue. We have 32 members of the 52-member delegation that are Democrats. Of those 32 members, 16 are women, 16 are men. It has the highest number of African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and, as I like to say, return Peace Corps volunteers in that delegation. Every one of the Members in that delegation and the history it is making as a delegation of parity and a delegation of broad representation pays tribute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) for getting them elected to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we gather on this floor of this great institution to pay tribute to a woman who has already made history, but in the years ahead will make even more.

TRIBUTE TO NEW MINORITY WHIP, THE HONORABLE NANCY PELOSI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege and a joy for me to be able to praise and recognize our new whip, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI). The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) has been a role model for anyone interested in entering politics and is a shining example of effective leadership. I can think of no better Member to galvanize our efforts here in Congress during these trying yet promising times.

The gentlewoman is true to her convictions, whether that be fighting for human rights in China, defending a woman's right to choose, or looking after the well-being of working families, and she will not back down on these critical issues.

As whip of our party, it will be the gentlewoman's job to corral votes, listen to Members' concern, and help point this Congress in the direction that will take our Nation to a better future for our children.

Mr. Speaker, when I was a candidate with aspirations to become a Member of Congress, I was fortunate to have the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) there for me. My colleagues from California know how helpful she can be, and now the entire party will benefit from her advice and counsel.

History will show that to date there have been over 12,000 Members in the United States Congress, of which a little over 200 have been women. And here we are today honoring the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the first woman to the second highest post in our party. It is about time.

While breaking new ground and shattering stereotypes of who the leaders of this Nation are, the gentlewoman will bring about a much-needed change and invigorate the political process in a civil way without creating the acrimony and ill will that has all too often defined the partisan politics we have seen in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) and look forward to her leadership as the House Democratic whip.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I have three words for the gentlewoman: Grit, guts and grace. I think the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) does a tremendous job of demonstrating what an elected official should represent. I have had nothing but pleasure in seeing her operate and seeing the gentlewoman just move forward an issue, whether it is an issue on